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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNDER ONE ROOF—AFFORDABLE HOUSING, LIBRARY,
GYMNASIUM**

Groundbreaking Ceremony Kicks Off Dream Project

**INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT VILLAGE SQUARE PHASE II
GROUNDBREAKING**

WHEN: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2002**
TIME: **1:30 P.M.**
WHERE: **8th Avenue South, between Lane and Dearborn Streets in Seattle's
International District**
WHO: **Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development
Authority (SCIDPDA) – nonprofit developer**
SPEAKERS: **Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels
King County Executive Ron Sims
Martha Choe, Director of Washington State Community, Trade &
Economic Development
Emcee: Lori Matsukawa, KING 5 TV anchor**
PLUS: **Chinese Lion Dance, Japanese Taiko drummers, isangmahal arts kollektive**

SEATTLE, WA – After decades of dreaming, Seattle's International District will soon have community amenities that will allow the neighborhood to survive and thrive for generations to come. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$26 million International District Village Square Phase 2 will occur on November 15, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.

For over 25 years, the Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA) has been preserving and developing the unique ethnic character of Seattle's historic International District through housing, community and economic development. In 1998, SCIDPDA opened the award-winning first phase of the International District Village Square. Phase I is an intergenerational, multi-ethnic, collaborative facility that includes senior housing/assisted living apartments, a child care center, health clinic, job training and counseling in 35 different languages.

(OVER)

Phase II of Village Square creatively combines a new branch of the Seattle Public Library, community center/gymnasium operated by the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, 57 two- and three-bedroom apartments for low-income families, 6,000 square feet of retail/office space and 75-stall underground parking garage.

"The International District Village Square Phase 2 unites a library, community center, affordable housing, and access to human services – all under one roof," said Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. "It not only revitalizes this neighborhood, it enriches our whole city." Bob Santos, the International District's unofficial Mayor, adds, "The community has been dreaming about this project for over 30 years. Children, families and seniors will finally have a place to congregate and call home."

The groundbreaking will include cultural performances including Japanese taiko drums by Northwest Taiko, Chinese lion dance by Mak Fai Washington Kung Fu Club and spoken word by isangmahal arts kollektive. Speakers will include King County Executive Ron Sims and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. KING 5 TV's Lori Matsukawa will emcee the event.

"Upon completion, mixed-use projects are viewed as unique, community jewels but they are extremely difficult to package," stated SCIDPDA's Executive Director Sue Taoka. "We are grateful for the support of our 30+ funding partners that have provided 98% of the project's funding." The International District Village Square Phase 2 is a highly leveraged project with a diverse mix of public and private sources.

To date, SCIDPDA has secured \$25.7 million towards a \$26.2 million development budget. Total project funding will include \$8.5 million in public funds, \$7.3 million in financing, \$4.5 million in tax credits, \$3.4 million in fundraising contributions and \$2.6 million from SCIDPDA's equity contribution. Major project contributors include \$4.5 million low-income housing tax credit investment from Washington Mutual; \$2.5 million from the Seattle Housing Levy; \$2.1 million from the 1999 Seattle Community Center Levy, \$1.9 million from the Washington State Housing Trust Fund, \$1.7 million from the Seattle Housing Authority; \$1,000,000 from The Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation; \$450,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; \$256,000 from Federal Home Loan Bank; and \$250,000 from the Pro Parks Levy.

Kubota Kato Chin / Kovalenko Hale Joint Venture is the project architect and MarPac Construction is the general contractor. The project is located on Eighth Avenue South, between Dearborn and Lane Streets in Seattle's International District. The six-story building totals over 133,000 square feet. Shoring and excavation work begins this month. Construction will be completed in 2004.

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A color rendering of the project is available.